United Nations A/73/416

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 October 2018
English
Original: French

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 116 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 1 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

With reference to the elections to be held in the General Assembly on 12 October 2018 to elect members of the United Nations Human Rights Council, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a document prepared by the Government of Togo in accordance with resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 containing the voluntary pledges of Togo for its re-election to the Council for the period 2019–2021 (see annex).

In this regard, I should be grateful if you would take the necessary steps forthwith to have this letter and its annex circulated to Member States and published on the corresponding website.

(*Signed*) Kokou **Kpayedo**

18-16805 (E) 111018 111018

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Togo for the Human Rights Council for the period 2019-2021

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. Togo is coming to the end of its first term (2016–2018) on the Human Rights Council. It has exercised its mandate in accordance with its Government's commitment to continue its efforts to consolidate the universal values of human rights in the country, by taking the necessary steps to strengthen them, especially for the most vulnerable, including children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly, with the conviction that stronger rights are central to democracy.

2. To ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights, Togo places special emphasis on the realization of economic and social rights, including through the establishment of several national programmes, now consolidated in the national development programme adopted in March 2018. That programme is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. Such programmes are particularly designed to lift the most vulnerable populations and those of less-favoured areas out of poverty.

3. In the past three years, Togo has taken an active part in the Council's discussions, focusing on a constructive approach guided by the principles of the non-politicization, universality and indivisibility of human rights, while frequently endorsing the promotion of international cooperation in this field, including in the form of technical assistance to countries that wish to receive it. Togo participated both in its national capacity and through the groups of which it is a member, including the African Group for which it is coordinating human rights issues in 2018.

4. Similarly, Togo is involved in the universal periodic review processes of several countries. It has been a member of several troikas during the mechanism's second and third cycles, making recommendations to different countries in a spirit of cooperation.

5. Togo is seeking re-election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2019–2021:

(a) The facts set out below bear witness to the fact that its desire to continue as a member of the Council reaffirms the commitment of Togo to respect for all human rights and constant efforts to strengthen them;

(b) The reiterated commitment of Togo is supported by the Togolese Constitution of 1992, which, in its article 50, provides that the rights and duties set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the international instruments ratified by Togo shall be an integral part of the Constitution;

(c) In accordance with these international and regional commitments and especially since 2016, Togo has adopted many legal instruments that incorporate into national law the conventions and treaties to which it is a party. These include the new penal code that addresses various recent forms of crime and, in particular, removes the statute of limitations for the crime of torture. The new organic law on the National Human Rights Commission, promulgated on 20 June 2018, complies with the Paris Principles and makes explicit provision for the Commission's function as a national torture prevention mechanism, which has been recognized since 2014.

(d) Togo continues its unwavering cooperation in the field of human rights with various United Nations bodies. In this regard, the relationship established with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights through its office in Lomé, opened in 2006 and closed in April 2015, is often mentioned as a success story, including by the Office of the High Commissioner;

(e) With regard to international mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, in particular the universal periodic review to which Togo attaches great importance, it should be noted that the country was reviewed by of its peers in October 2016 under the second cycle of the mechanism and has accepted more than 85 per cent of the recommendations received. After that process, the Government prepared and adopted a plan of action for the implementation of recommendations resulting from the universal periodic review and those made by international treaty bodies;

(f) Togo has followed up almost all individual or joint communications from mandate holders and responded to almost all requests for visits by the latter, although it has not chosen to issue a standing invitation;

(g) In recent months, Togo has submitted the following reports to the competent bodies: the third periodic report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; its fifth periodic report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and its combined sixth, seventh and eighth reports on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Additional reports are currently being prepared. These include the combined fifth and sixth reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the eighth report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the initial report on the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

6. If re-elected to the Human Rights Council, Togo pledges:

(a) To continue to ratify relevant instruments in the field of human rights and to implement international commitments, in accordance with the instruments to which it is a party;

(b) To meet its reporting obligations under those instruments and cooperate with the treaty bodies, while continuing to involve civil society in the preparation of such reports;

(c) To continue to contribute constructively to discussions in the Council for the improvement of human rights throughout the world by promoting technical assistance and capacity-building for States that request such cooperation;

(d) To remain an active participant in the universal periodic review process by continuing to implement the recommendations that it definitively accepted in March 2017;

(e) To continue to participate in initiatives that enable the Human Rights Council to carry out its full mandate, in accordance with resolution 60/251, by becoming more involved in discussions focusing on the Council's prevention efforts;

(f) To give greater support in the Council to initiatives on economic and social issues, the most vulnerable populations, women and children and those in the most deprived areas, in order to help to better safeguard respect for human dignity;

(g) To continue to cooperate with organizations for the defence of human rights.